

Deficiency Progress Report – Update 1

Report Submitted: February 17, 2009

CUPA: Contra Costa County Health Services (CCHMP)

Evaluation Date: November 18 and 19, 2008

Evaluation Team:

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Corrected Deficiencies: **none**

Next Progress Report (Update 2) Due: **May 18, 2009**

Please update the deficiencies below that remain outstanding.

1. **Deficiency:** The CUPA is reviewing its Inspection and Enforcement (I and E) Plan annually, but it has not updated the plan as needed.

Examples:

- The I and E plan contains a scheduled inspection frequency of 3 years for Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) facilities.
- The I and E plan does not include the enforcement option “Red Tag” even though Red Tag is used.
- The I and E plan contains incorrect citations.

Preliminary Corrective Actions: By May 31, 2009 (***changed from February 19, 2009***), the CUPA will update its I and E plan.

Along with the first progress report, submit the CUPA's updated I and E plan to Cal/EPA.

CUPA's 1st Update (2-17-09): CCHMP addressed the first two deficiencies listed above. The inspection frequency listed in, *Facility Inspections – Underground Storage Tanks* has been changed to *annually* (page 1). Additionally, an addendum was added to that policy that addresses the use of red tags.

CCHMP is in the process of making significant changes to the administration of the Unified Programs. These changes will result in additional revisions to the I&E Plan including consolidating the multiple plans for each of the Unified Programs into one coordinated plan. CCHMP would like to correct the erroneous citations during the consolidation process. These revisions to the I&E Plan will be completed no later than May 31, 2009.

If requested by CalEPA, CCHMP will correct the erroneous citations as requested above by February 28, 2009.

Cal/EPA's 1st Response: Cal/EPA appreciates the CUPA's efforts to correct this deficiency. The CUPA may correct the erroneous citations in the I and E plan as a part of I and E consolidation process. The corrective action due date will be modified to reflect the CUPA's action.

By May 31, 2009, please email the I and E revision to Cal/EPA for review. Please refer to the SWRCB's response.

- **SWRCB's Response:** The State Water Board staff considers the portion of this deficiency for UST inspection frequency to be corrected. The red tag addendum fully describes how this enforcement tool is to be used. However, the enforcement portion of the inspection report does not reference red tags. Please see the comment under Deficiency 4 below.

CUPA's 2nd Update: [Enter Update Here](#)

2. **Deficiency:** Some of the required forms for the permit to operate are not found in the facility files. The forms that were missing include: monitoring plan, response plan, plot plan (not in any of the reviewed files); UST A & B forms, financial responsibility/CFO letters. Some forms are not for the current owner. Some of the forms are incomplete or lack signatures.

Preliminary Corrective Actions: In the future, the CUPA will ensure that UST facility files have the required paperwork. Also, the CUPA will ensure that the paperwork is complete and up-to-date.

CUPA's 1st Update (2-17-09): CCHMP is moving forward with the *Corrective Actions* outlined in the self-audit. This includes the following:

- Train/retrain staff on inspection basics
- Review and update inspection (HMBP, HWG, UST) forms
- Hold basic, refresher training on inspection (HMBP, HWG, UST) programs that includes the proper classification of violations
- Revise Enforcement Plan and hold enforcement training
- Develop a QA/QC review process for inspections
- Hold advanced training on inspection programs
- Revise the I&E Plan to reflect changes

At this time, CCHMP is reviewing the final draft of the *Inspection Basics* training course. Classes have been scheduled for February 26, 2009, and repeated on March 3, 2009. Additionally, the first draft of the revised, Enforcement Plan is complete and Program Leads are currently revising inspection forms.

Cal/EPA's 1st Response: Please refer to the SWRCB's response.

- **SWRCB's Response:** The State Water Board staff applauds CCHMP's steps to correct this deficiency. We request clarification as to how CCHMP will ensure that all information required on the revised UST forms will be collected. Does CCHMP intend to have UST facility owners complete the revised forms or will CUPA forms be revised to capture this new information? Also, State Water Board staff would like to review the revised UST inspection form when it is available.

CUPA's 2nd Update: Enter Update Here

3. **Deficiency:** The CUPA UST inspection report does not verify compliance with all requirements of Article 3 and 4, but consists of a report of violations only. All items that are in compliance are not part of the report.

Preliminary Corrective Actions: By June 19, 2009, the CUPA shall develop an inspection report format that identifies the requirements of Article 3 and 4, that when completed, documents compliance and non-compliance. Violation summaries and return –to-compliance forms for minor violations can still be used along with this as part of the complete report.

CUPA's 1st Update (2-17-09): In addition to revising inspection forms (see **Item 2**) CCHMP has been meeting with other CUPAs to gain insight on their successes with implementing the Unified Programs. The revisions to the inspection forms, along with the associated staff training, are expected to be completed by May 1, 2009.

Cal/EPA's 1st Response: Please refer to the SWRCB's response.

- **SWRCB's Response:** The State Water Board staff is pleased that CCHMP is developing detailed guidance and training for UST inspectors. The inspection report that CCHMP submitted combines aspects of a procedures document and an inspection checklist. It is not clear to State Water Board staff how an inspector would use the inspection report to document compliance and, in particular, determine if the facility is in significant operational compliance for release detection and release prevention. The State Water Board staff would like to review several completed inspection reports and the associated facility documents (tank form, monitoring plan, etc.) to see how the inspectors verified compliance per Sec. 2712(c) before renewing the operating permit.

CUPA's 2nd Update: Enter Update Here

4. **Deficiency:** The CUPA is not exercising a graduated series of enforcement against some UST and hazardous waste generator facilities cited for chronic and/or severe violations. Chronic and/or severe violations are not escalated to formal enforcement. Example:
- Eagle Gas had two instances of raised sensors noted at prior inspections, but, no formal enforcement was initiated, and at the 11/17/08 inspection raised sensors were again found.
 - At Top Gas and Food, raised sensors was cited, but no formal enforcement was initiated.
 - The VA Hospital of Northern CA did not properly characterize, label, and dispose of chemotherapy waste which was offered to an unlicensed transporter. No formal enforcement was initiated.

Preliminary Corrective Actions: In the future, the CUPA will exercise a graduated series of enforcement on facilities that have chronic and/or severe violations.

The CUPA will refresh staff knowledge of the definitions of Class I, Class II and minor violations. A good tool for refresher training may include covering the Cal/EPA "Violation Classification Guidance Document for Unified Program Agencies," which is available on the Cal/EPA website under Unified Program - Publications and Forms.

By May 1, 2009 (***changed from February 19, 2009***), the CUPA will provide violation determination training to its inspectors.

CUPA's 1st Update (2-17-09): CCHMP outlined a process to improve our administration of the Unified Programs (see **Item 2**). We felt the need to reestablish a firm foundation on which to build consistency and coordination and therefore will not meet the February 19, 2009, timeframe. The inspection training scheduled for February 26, 2009, and repeated on March 3, 2009, will briefly address classifying violations but will not be program specific. Before May 1, 2009, CCHMP will hold basic, refresher training on each inspection (HMBP, HWG, UST) program that includes the proper classification of violations.

Cal/EPA's 1st Response: Cal/EPA appreciates the CUPA's efforts to correct this deficiency. The CUPA is providing violation classification training; however, the staff will not complete the training until May 1, 2009. The corrective action due date will be modified to reflect the CUPA's action. Please continue to train CUPA staff in the classification of violations and on the proper enforcement actions to take based on the severity of the violations. Please contact Asha Arora at 510-540-3874 if you require classification and/or enforcement assistance regarding HWG violations. Please refer to the SWRCB's response.

- **SWRCB's Response:** As mentioned above for Deficiency 4, the State Water Board staff is pleased that CCHMP is developing

detailed guidance and training for UST inspectors. The inspection report that CCHMP submitted does not show how the inspector will classify any identified violations as minor, Class I or Class II; nor does it mention red tags as a consequence of non-compliance. Our review of completed inspection reports will show us how CCHMP is ensuring that inspectors are consistently citing and tracking violations.

CUPA's 2nd Update: Enter Update Here

5. **Deficiency:** The CUPA issues UST operating permits based on fee payment and not compliance.

Preliminary Corrective Actions: By June 19, 2009, the CUPA shall develop a written procedure as part of the I and E plan to ensure that a UST facility is in compliance before issuing the Permit to Operate.

CUPA's 1st Update (2-17-09): CCHMP is developing a written procedure that will require UST Operating Permits to be reviewed prior to mailing. Permits from UST facilities that have outstanding violations would be manually removed by staff and held pending compliance.

CCHMP is looking towards changing data management systems. The new system will be able to automatically withhold a permit until a business comes into compliance.

Cal/EPA's 1st Response: Please refer to the SWRCB's response.

- **SWRCB's Response:** CCHMP is taking appropriate steps to correct this deficiency. The State Water Board would like to review the written procedure when it is final.

CUPA's 2nd Update: Enter Update Here